

M A R L O W

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. J. Muir, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health, Wycombe Rural District
and High Wycombe Borough, Area & Divisional School
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A faint, light gray watermark of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment is visible in the background.

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Bellfield House,
80 Oxford Road,
HIGH WYCOMBE,
Bucks.

September, 1971.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Marlow Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for 1970.

The population of the district continues to increase, it being estimated that 11,250 were resident in mid-1970, an increase of 230 on the figure for the previous year. This increase was made up of 87 excess births over deaths and 143 by internal migration.

210 births in a population of 11,250 expressed per 1,000 inhabitants gives a birth rate of 18.7, exactly what it was in 1969.

Of the 123 deaths which occurred (death rate 10.9 per 1,000 population), 58 resulted from diseases of the heart and circulation, 32 from cancer and 15 from diseases of the respiratory system. Of the cancer deaths, 9 were in respect of lung disease.

For the second successive year the infantile mortality rate is well above the average and this is the only unsatisfactory feature of the statistics.

In concluding, I am glad to express my appreciation of the help and co-operation I have had from Mr. Burslem and Mr. Jackson.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

A. J. MUIR

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STATISTICS

Area in Acres.....	1,664
Registrar General's Estimate of Population mid-1970.....	11,250
No. of inhabited houses on Rate Book end of 1970.....	4,021
Estimated Product of Penny Rate.....	£2,407
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1970.....	£615,945

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number.....	210
Rate per 1,000 Population.....	18.7
Comparability Factor.....	.89
Adjusted Birth Rate.....	16.6
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births.....	4
Still Births	
Number.....	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.....	9
Total Live and Still Births.	212
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year).....	6
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1, 000 total live births.....	29
Legitimate Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	30
Illegitimate Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	--
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births.....	14
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births).....	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births).....	19
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths.....	0.0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.....	0.0.

DEATHS

NUMBER OF DEATHS.....	MALES.....	70
	FEMALES.....	53
		—
		123
		—

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.....	10.9
Comparability Factor.....	1.15
Adjusted Local Death Rate.	12.5
Death Rate of England and Wales.....	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY

6 Infants under the age of 1 year died.

This represents a mortality rate of 29 per 1,000 related births, compared with 18.0 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate 14, compared with a national rate of 12.

MATERNAL DEATHS

- (a) From puerperal sepsis.....0
- (b) From other maternal sources.....0

TABLE OF DEATHS

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	2	3
2. Malignant neoplasm, Intestine	2	3	5
3. Malignant neoplasm, Larynx	1	-	1
4. Malignant neoplasm, Lungs, Bronchus	8	1	9
5. Malignant neoplasm, Breast	-	2	2
6. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
7. Leukaemia	1	-	1
8. Other malignant neoplasm	4	6	10
9. Avitaminosis, etc.	1	-	1
10. Other endocrine diseases	-	1	1
11. Other diseases of the nervous system	1	-	1
12. Chronic Rheumatic heart disease	-	1	1
13. Hypertensive disease	4	2	6
14. Ischaemic Heart Disease	21	11	32
15. Other forms of Heart Disease	3	4	7
16. Cerebrovascular Disease	4	6	10
17. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	-	2
18. Pneumonia	8	5	13
19. Bronchitis, emphysema	1	1	2
20. Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
21. Other diseases of the digestive system	-	1	1

TABLE OF DEATHS (Cont'd.)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
22. Other diseases of the Genito-Urinary system	-	2	2
23. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal system	1	-	1
24. Congenital anomalies	2	-	2
25. Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2
26. Other cases of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
27. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
28. All Other Accidents	-	1	1
29. Suicide and self-inflicted Injuries	2	-	2
	70	53	123

RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL (LIVE & STILL BIRTHS)

(a) Maternal causes excluding abortion	0
(b) Owing to abortion	0
(c) Total maternal mortality	0

CANCER DEATHS

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

Males.....	17
Females.....	15

Yearly Comparison of Cancer Deaths

1970.....	32
1969.....	29
1968.....	26
1967.....	17
1966.....	14
1965.....	21
1964.....	17
1963.....	20
1962.....	9
1961.....	19
1960.....	24
1959.....	17

The Following Organs were Affected:-

Intestine.....	5
Stomach.....	3
Lungs.....	9
Breast.....	2
Uterus.....	1
Larynx.....	1
Other Sites.....	10

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory.....	0
Non-Respiratory, Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).....	15
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....	1.33

POPULATIONS, BIRTH & MORTALITY RATES FOR 1970

DISTRICT	POPULATION CENSUS 1961	REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATED POPULATION 1970	CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
			CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY	484,094	585,560	16.9	8.9
MARLOW URBAN DISTRICT	8,724	11,250	18.7	10.9
ENGLAND AND WALES	46,071,604	48,947,700	16.0	11.7

IMMUNISATION

241 Children were vaccinated against diphtheria.

237 against whooping cough and 242 against tetanus.

Of children born in the years 1968 - 1970, 318 were immunised against measles and 231 against poliomyelitis

There were 197 vaccinations against smallpox and 7 renewals.

B.C.G. vaccination was offered to 13-year old children attending secondary schools. No separate figures are kept for the individual districts.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

These are as described in previous Reports.

The Ambulance Station is situate in West End Street, High Wycombe, and is in radio-communication with the ambulances en route.

HOSPITALS

GENERAL	-	High Wycombe Canadian Red Cross, Taplow Maidenhead Hospital Battle Hospital, Reading Cottage Hospital, Marlow
MATERNITY	-	Canadian Red Cross, Taplow Shubbery Maternity Home Amersham Hospital Townlands, Henley
TUBERCULOSIS	-	Peppard Sanatorium
FEVERS	-	Maidenhead Isolation Stoke Mandeville
MENTAL	-	St. John's Hospital, Stone

The Metropolitan Hospitals are readily available.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 - No formal action.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The facilities provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, are available for the Officers of the Council.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply of the District comes from deep wells owned by the Bucks. Water Board. The supply is adequate and samples are taken regularly for bacteriological examination.

M A R L O W

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. F. Burslem, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector	-	C.J. Meadows, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Clerk/Secretary	-	Mrs. P. Whitehead (from 1. 4.70)
Clerk/Typist	-	Miss A. Bavistock (to 1. 4.70)
Rodent Operative	-	C. Eyres
Foreman	-	C. Anson

Council Offices,
Court Garden,
MARLOW,
Bucks.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Marlow Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my third Annual Report, covering the work carried out in the Department during 1970. This Report is combined with that of the Medical Officer of Health and has been submitted to the Department of Health and Social Security, the Department of the Environment and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee and all Members of the Council for their advice and guidance on many matters during the year.

I also wish to express my thanks to all members of my staff for their loyal and energetic work and to the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and Engineer, the Surveyor and the Chief Financial Officer for their assistance and support.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one slaughterhouse situated within the Urban District, which kills for the needs of two shops in Marlow and shops in High Wycombe, Princes Risborough, Hambledon, Maidenhead and Gerrards Cross. The slaughterhouse is run in an efficient and hygenic manner, but its situation in the centre of the town causes many problems in relation to traffic congestion, noise, and gives rise to many complaints on aesthetic grounds, Crown Road being used by many people to reach the town centre.

At the present level of killing, the premises are reaching their capacity on three days a week, there being insufficient lairage for keeping animals prior to slaughter without discomfort and insufficient hanging space for carcase storage overnight, resulting in possible early spoilage of the meat. Negotiations are taking place with the owners to endeavour to even out the kill over the whole week.

The powers under the provisions of the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966, to control the hours of slaughtering were continued during 1970, slaughtering being limited to the hours 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive. This control of slaughtering has enabled me to maintain a full and effective 100% meat inspection service.

CRUELTY AND HYGIENE

My responsibilities in relation to the slaughterhouse are not only concerned with the administration of a meat inspection service, but also for maintenance of hygiene and the prevention of cruelty to animals.

During 1970 the badly worn and broken concrete floors were completely replaced with an epoxy resin non-slip flooring to the hanging room, gut room and lairage. The internal lairages were re-drained to avoid excessive accumulation of faeces and urine and the walls to all rooms redecorated with a P.V.C. paint. The obsolete gut scraping tables were replaced with a stainless steel unit and plans are being drawn up to re-surface the external yard and for the modernisation of the pig slaughter and dressing process.

Informal action was required on three occasions against haulage contractors regarding cruelty to animals; this action was taken under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

Early in 1970, it was found that a large amount of ritual slaughter for the Mohammedan population in High Wycombe was taking place; the person carrying out the slaughtering was not a licensed slaughterman and caused the animals a great deal of distress. The person concerned was warned of possible prosecution and this practice was discontinued.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing plants in the Urban District.

MEAT INSPECTION

1970 Showed a slight increase in the total numbers of animals slaughtered at the Marlow Slaughterhouse of Tom Morris (Butchers) Ltd. There was no appreciable increase in the incidence of disease in animals passing through and as in previous years, parasitic diseases, with the exception of cysticerci, were the most prevalent.

I list below the numbers of animals killed with a comparison of animals killed in 1969.

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Cattle (Excl. Cows)	1521	1499
Cows	44	94
Calves	26	51
Sheep	2429	2357
Pigs	3069	2919

Of this meat inspected, the following amounts were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed or released for non-edible manufacturing purposes.

Carcase Meat 17 cwt. 30 lbs.

Offal 4 tons 13 cwt. 181bs.

DISEASES

The numbers of animals found to be suffering from diseases which rendered the whole or part of the carcase and/or organs unfit for human consumption were as follows:

ALL DISEASES AND CAUSES, EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS, CYSTICERCI AND OTHER PARASITES

Whole Carcasses Condemned

<u>Cattle</u> - 5	<u>Cows</u> - 3	<u>Calves</u> - 1	<u>Sheep</u> - 26	<u>Pigs</u> - 40
(Excl. Cows)				

Carcases of Which some Part or Organ was Condemned

<u>Cattle</u> - 20	<u>Cows</u> - 10	<u>Calves</u> - Nil	<u>Sheep</u> - 17	<u>Pigs</u> - 127
(Excl. Cows)				

Percentage of Numbers of Animals Slaughtered

<u>Cattle</u> - 1.644	<u>Cows</u> - 29.53	<u>Calves</u> - 3.846	<u>Sheep</u> - 1.681	<u>Pigs</u> - 5.442
(Excl. Cows)				

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole Carcasses Condemned

<u>Cattle</u> - 0	<u>Cows</u> - 0	<u>Pigs</u> - 0
(Excl. Cows)		

Carcases of Which some Part or Organ was Condemned

<u>Cattle</u> - 0	<u>Cows</u> - 0	<u>Pigs</u> - 51
(Excl. Cows)		

Percentage of Numbers of Animals Slaughtered

<u>Cattle</u> - 0	<u>Cows</u> - 0	<u>Pigs</u> - 1.662
(Excl. Cows)		

DISEASES (Cont'd.)

CYSTICERCUS

Whole Carcasses Condemned

Carcases of Which some Part or Organ was Condemned

Cattle Submitted for Treatment by Refrigeration

Percentage of Animals Slaughtered affected with Cysticerci

OTHER PARASITIC CAUSES

Carcasses of Which some Part or Organ was Condemned

Cattle - 131 Cows - 27 Sheep - 364 Pigs - 337
(Excl. Cows)

Percentage of Animals Slaughtered affected by Parasites

Cattle - 8.614 Cows - 89.70 Sheep - 14.98 Pigs - 10.98
(Excl. Cows)

GENERAL FOOD INSPECTION

In the course of general good inspection, the following amounts of food were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption and subsequently destroyed:

(1)	Carcase meat and offal from retail shops	15 cwts.	61 lbs.
(2)	Canned meats	1 cwt.	97 lbs.
(3)	Other canned foods	18 cwts.	15 lbs.
(4)	Fresh fish	1 cwt.	75 lbs.
(5)	Fresh fruit and vegetables	1 cwt.	34 lbs.
(6)	Frozen foods	3 cwts.	49 lbs.
		(plus 3273 misc. sized packets)	
(7)	Other foods	3 cwts.	78 lbs.
		(plus 497 misc. sized packets & 193 bottle	
(8)	Ice cream	12 gallons	

FOOD COMPLAINTS

The upward trend in food complaints continued in 1970, and as in 1969, these complaints were mainly of staleness in such items as bread, confectionery, cheese and butter. All complaints received were investigated and in the majority of cases advice was given to those employed in the shops in good food handling and stock rotation.

Public opinion is at the present moment pressing for manufacturers to date stamp all perishable food with the date by which it should be eaten. In the past, I have been of the opinion that this was unnecessary and would cause greater problems to the retailer owing to the consumer always taking the last dated packet, thus leaving the older stock, and that, as the shelf life of most articles would be greater than the date marked on the wrapping, the food would not be unfit for human consumption, but would be unsaleable. However, with the advent of the supermarket and the disappearance of the small family grocer, a great number of staff employed in the retail food trade have little or no knowledge of food handling or stock rotation.

A country-wide survey has also provided evidence that in many areas unsold perishable food is being removed from shops by manufacturers' delivery men and some of this is being delivered to other shops as fresh stock. I am strongly opposed to the operation of 'Sale or Return' practices for perishable foods and ways must be found in the near future to stop these practices. In view of the lack of adequately trained and experienced staff in shops and the 'Sale or Return' practices, operated in most cases unofficially by manufacturers' van salesman, I feel that some form of clear date stamping or other easily recognisable code on perishable goods would now be a valuable safeguard for consumers.

Among complaints received during the year, the following are of interest:-

1. Complaint was received regarding the condition of a box of chocolate nut clusters purchased from a small restaurant. Examination revealed that they were severely infested with beetles, similar in appearance to the tobacco beetle - *Lasioderma Serricorne*.

The manufacturers were contacted and they inspected the chocolates and informed me that the chocolates had been manufactured in July 1966 and would have been delivered to the retailer not later than December 1966. From the degree of infestation, it was obvious that infestation had occurred at the retailer's premises. The remaining stock was examined and no further infestation was found. It would have been impossible for the retailer to have known that the chocolates were infested at the time of sale and advice was given on stock control and rotation to the retailer and staff.

2. Complaint was received regarding a splinter of metal contained in a $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packet of imported butter. The importers were contacted who reported that the metal concerned was a chip off an aluminium casting and that it had come from a screw in one of the butter extruder units. An accident had taken place in the factory, causing the extruder to be taken out of use owing to damage after repair. However, it was obvious that sufficient inspection had not been carried out before it was put back into service. Metal detectors were in use prior to the extruders,

2. . . but a suitable system has not yet been devised for use at the
(Cont'd.) extrusion point. As a result of the manufacturer's explanation, the complainant withdrew her complaint.

3. Complaint was received regarding the condition of a bottle of milk delivered to a house in the district. On examination there appeared to be an abnormal odour and taste to the milk. The milk was sent to the Public Analyst, who reported as follows:

"We confirm that there was a slight taint of what appeared to be a pine type disinfectant. This was almost entirely associated with the bottle and we were unable to detect it in the milk due to the very low concentration.

"It is likely that a previous user diluted a disinfectant in the bottle and failed to rinse it. The washing process at the dairy must have removed the bulk but a slight trace remained."

The dairy were informed of this complaint and replied as follows:

"We have reached the conclusion that the trouble was due to misused bottles; if it had been in the milk there would have been many more complaints. Although we could detect a 'foreign flavour', which we could not recognise, there was no sign

3. (Cont'd.) "of oil in the bottle. It was obviously a type of contamination not readily removed by caustic soda (our washers have three detergent tanks, which are run at varying strengths and temperatures. The first tank is kept at 1.0% alkalinity).

"This type of contamination is most difficult to detect, whether it is a maltreated bottle or in the milk. We did have such a consignment a few months ago but it was an unusual occurrence. We were very puzzled as to why there were a few complaints of this nature in the Marlow area; we finally concluded that a part crate of bottles had been misused and then dispersed over several crates by the bottle scramblers.

"Please accept our apologies."

The complainant, meanwhile, had left the district and did not wish formal action to be taken in this case.

4. Complaint was received regarding the condition of a small, sliced brown loaf purchased from F.W.Woolworth & Co. Ltd. on Saturday, 15th August, 1970.

On examination, it was found that the loaf contained considerable mould growth. The manufacturer of the loaf, Messrs. Wonder Bakery,

4. was contacted and a visit made by the Bakery Sales Manager.
(Cont'd.)

As a result of his inspection of the loaf, the following explanation was received:

"I am very perturbed that a product of our manufacture should have been purchased in this condition, and I hope you will accept my most sincere apologies.

"Obviously with the code of T3/33, which incidentally relates to T = High Wycombe Bakery, 3 = 3rd day of the week (Wednesday), and 33 = the 33rd week of the year, it certainly looks as if the salesman concerned is changing bread from one store to another.

"I have severely admonished the salesman concerned to his future conduct, emphasising that we have a strict No Sale or Return Policy.

"In no way whatsoever can he hold F.W.Woolworth & Co. Ltd responsible for this complaint."

The loaf was then sent to the Public Analyst for his observations, and he reported as follows:

"I have examined the loaf received from you on 19th August and find that it is heavily infected with a black mould growth (Aspergillus Niger), over 90% of the surface being visibly affected.

(Cont'd.)

"I am of the opinion that the mould was at least 7 days old."

You will see from the letter received from the manufacturer that the loaf was manufactured on the 12th August, and that in the Public Analyst's opinion, the mould had started to grow about the 12th August.

The Manager of Woolworth informed me that he takes very little stocks of bread and that this loaf had been delivered to him on the Saturday morning, and it would appear that the salesman concerned had put in bread to Woolworth which had been rejected by another retailer.

In view of the seriousness of the complaint, I recommended that legal proceedings be taken against Wonder Baking (South East) Ltd.

Legal proceedings were instituted and the manufacturers were fined £20 with £8. 8s. Od. Advocate's fees and £10. 10s. Od. costs.

FOOD HYGIENE

A reasonably high standard of food hygiene was maintained in the majority of food shops during 1970, although with the increasing number of supermarkets, standards have become somewhat lower owing to the shortage of trained staff and the rapid turnover of staff. Untrained food handlers do not pay as much attention as they should to clean food handling and personal hygiene, and managers and Public Health Inspectors spend a great deal of time instructing new staff on the basic principles of food handling and hygiene.

As in 1969, 1970 saw a lowering of standards in a number of licensed premises and restaurants. Many licensees have now introduced catering into their businesses, which is carried on in unsatisfactory conditions. In all cases, the domestic kitchen is being used for food preparation and no attention has been paid to the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, especially with regard to washing and lavatory facilities. Negotiations are taking place with the Brewery Companies concerned to bring these premises up to the required standard.

It still is, however, a cause for concern that, when alterations are contemplated for licensed premises, little thought is given to the provision of adequate facilities for food preparation and staff facilities to enable them to maintain a high standard of food hygiene. In my opinion, when contemplating alterations, the Brewery Companies should always consult the local Public Health Inspector, and this would ensure satisfactory premises at the outset and prevent possible costly alterations at a later date.

In 1970 I instituted a publicity campaign in an effort to dissuade the public from taking their dogs into food shops. All food shops were asked to display a signed hanging card requesting customers not to take dogs into shops and to refrain from smoking in these premises. 90% of the food premises agreed to display these notices and I am pleased to report that this had reduced the numbers of dogs being taken into shops and fewer customers are now seen smoking in the presence of food.

The attention of the public health staff is often drawn by the public to practices and conditions in connection with the food trade, which they feel should not exist. Co-operation between public and officers of the Council is essential and eases the burden on the Inspector, enabling him to direct his hygiene education programme to those sections of the district which require them most, and enables him to deal with matters which might not necessarily be apparent during a routine inspection.

SAMPLING

The Urban District Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority and formal sampling of food and drugs is carried out by the Weights and Measures' Inspectors of the Buckinghamshire County Council.

During 1970 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination from mobile ice cream vans, catering premises and other retail outlets.

SAMPLING

Results of samples were:

Grade	MOBILES				PREMISES			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice Cream		1	1					
Other Ice Cream					9	4	4	4

Samples graded in Grades I and II indicate a satisfactory standard of hygiene, but samples in Grades III and IV indicate a breakdown in hygiene and service. The premises which received a Grade III and IV were inspected and a stringent investigation carried out into the methods of storage and service of the commodity. In all cases the breakdown occurred in the service of the ice cream owing to staff not taking adequate precautions in the sterilisation and cleansing of utensils used for service. In all cases advice was given, resulting in further samples producing a Grade I or II sample.

Bacteriological samples of other foods were also taken as follows:

Sample	No. Taken	No. Unsatisfactory
Sausages	1	Nil
Meat Pies	1	Nil
Sliced Meats	3	Nil
Fresh Cream	10	3
Synthetic Cream	3	Nil

SAMPLING (Cont'd.)

The unsatisfactory samples of fresh cream were contained in cakes. All cases were owing to insufficient attention being paid by the food handlers to personal hygiene. Advice and instruction was given to all staff employed in the premises and the dangers of food poisoning explained, resulting in satisfactory results thereafter.

FACTORIES

Routine inspections to all factory premises were carried out during 1970. Informal action was sufficient to deal with any matters arising out of these inspections. The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act are contained in the Appendices to this Report.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

There were 10 new registrations under the provisions of the above Act during 1970. Contraventions continued to be found in the majority of premises inspected, most of which have been remedied by informal action.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the owner of a licensed betting shop in respect of the following contraventions:

1. Dangerous condition of floor covering to main office.
2. Dangerous condition of floor and floor covering to rear office, wash room and W.C. compartment.
3. Absence of suitable ventilation of W.C. compartment to the external air.
4. W.C. compartment communicated directly with rear office allowing ingress of foul air.
5. Door head to W.C. compartment defective and dangerous.
6. Rear office, W.C. compartment and wash room in filthy condition and in need of redecoration.

In spite of many visits, official letters and promises that work would be carried out to comply with the Act, no action was taken by the owners until immediately before the case was heard in the Harlow Magistrates' Court. The Company pleaded guilty and were fined a total of £35 with £7. 7s. Od. Advocates' Fees.

There were three accidents notified during the year, all of which were investigated, and advice given where necessary.

1. A 40-year old hardware manager suffered severe bruising to foot and lower leg when a cast iron inspection cover fell.
2. A 20-year old grocery management trainee was standing on a ladder with his back to the ladder to place a case on the stock-room shelves when the ladder slipped and he fell breaking his wrist.
3. A 30-year old female cashier/shelf filler was assisting when the above accident occurred; the falling ladder knocked her over causing severe bruising to legs and ribs.

Detailed statistics regarding the administration of the Act are contained in the Appendices to this Report.

REFUSE COLLECTION

1970 saw national difficulties regarding refuse collection, resulting in a serious strike late in the year. The collectors employed by the Department continued to work throughout the long period, however, when neighbouring authorities were involved with the dispute and we were able to maintain the usual weekly collection.

The incentive bonus scheme introduced in 1968 continued to work satisfactorily during 1970 and very few complaints were received about the service during the year.

The special collection of bulky refuse continued and over 500 collections were made, free of charge, of such items as beds, pianos, refrigerators, cookers, etc. These collections were made in addition to the available facility of a large bulk container where residents can themselves dispose of unwanted articles. This container has continued to be well used, requiring to be emptied at least twice a week throughout the year. In spite of both these services, and a publicity campaign, there is still a great deal of indiscriminate dumping carried out on a number of open sites within the district.

The town's refuse continues to be tipped at a commercial tip at Westhorpe Park and notification has been received of an increase in charges to £0.75 per ton. With the increased tonnage during 1970 of 80/85 tons per week from the 1969 figure of 70/75 tons per week, tipping charges are a large item in the expenditure for refuse collection and disposal.

The refuse collection service continues to be paper sack system over the whole district, using two 35/40 cu.yd. compaction vehicles and seven men. With traditional dustbins, it would be impossible to give a weekly service with the plant and men available at the present time.

RODENT CONTROL

The table contained in the Appendices to this Report shows the degree of rodent infestation in the area and details of numbers of treatments carried out. The bulk of the work involving over 2,000 visits was carried out by the Rodent Operative, Mr. H.C. Eyres. Treatment against mice was again carried out using an acute poison as the anti-coagulant baits have been proving ineffective. No evidence was found of warfarin-resistant rats.

The sewerage system was test baited in April and October and I am pleased to report that on both occasions no evidence of rodent infestation was found.

Permanent baiting points have been maintained at the Fieldhouse Lane sewage works and regular inspections have been carried out by myself in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. These inspections showed only slight infestation.

PEST CONTROL

Pests dealt with during the year included wasps, flies, mosquitoes, ants, fleas, bed bugs, feral pigeons, squirrels and moles.

Nuisance caused by feral pigeons increased during the year owing to the large increase in the pigeon population in the town. After protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a licence was issued to me to use alpha chlorolose, a narcotic, at prescribed points in the centre of the town. An intensive period of pre-baiting and baiting was carried out, but I regret with little success. At the end of the year a system of trapping was instituted and it is hoped that the pigeon population will be drastically reduced by the summer of 1971.

PETROLEUM ACTS

No new petroleum licences were issued in 1970 and one licence was discontinued, bringing the total number of licences in operation to 16.

Negotiations are taking place to increase the storage capacity at one filling station by 5,000 gallons and to install self-service equipment. The original plans did not provide sufficient safety precaution on the self-service pumps, but after meetings with the company, satisfactory provisions were made.

Three existing installations were tested and found to be satisfactory, and where the licence was discontinued, the tank was rendered safe under my supervision.

NOISE

1970, as in previous years, produced increasing complaints regarding noise. Noise must be regarded as a form of environmental pollution, which should be prevented or at least reduced to a level which is acceptable and does not interfere with the individual's right to enjoy his home and environment. With the establishment of new factories and workshops, considerable effort is being directed to ensure that machinery, which is to be installed, will not cause a nuisance and that any process likely to give rise to complaint is contained in an area where the sound insulation is sufficient to reduce the noise level to acceptable proportions.

During the year I have visited a number of premises to assess the possible nuisance, which would be caused by the installation of plant within factories and workshops within the area and have been able to advise prospective occupiers of premises in the best methods of installing and insulating plant and buildings.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Scientific Branch of the Greater London Council for all the help and advice they have given me during the year.

Among the more frequent causes of complaint are road breaking equipment, launderette extraction equipment, and noise from a club. Close co-operation with users of road breaking equipment has resulted in some progress in noise suppression, but the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act exclude the public utilities and difficulty has been experienced in persuading these utilities to use suppression equipment. In my opinion, it is essential that all the utilities should have to comply with the existing law in the same way as a private contractor, as in my experience, the road breakers used by the public utilities are no quieter than those of the civil engineering contractor.

The nationally-known timber concern, whose dust extraction plant caused a great deal of nuisance to residents adjoining the Industrial Estate, ceased operations in mid-1970. The area is now being let by the developers to individual light industrial concerns and close liaison is taking place between myself and the Area Planning Officer to ensure that the industry allocated to the area will be of a type suitable to that area, with noise levels of acceptable proportions.

The table in the Appendices to this Report gives the statistical account of the work of the Department under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act 1960.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Complaints continued to be received from all areas regarding pollution from smoke, vehicle fumes causing deterioration of external paintwork, soiling of washing and rapid dirtying of curtains, etc. The greatest cause of atmospheric pollution in the district is caused by domestic chimneys, especially in the older areas of the town, and where improvements are being carried out to older properties, owners are being encouraged to convert to a form of smokeless heating. Increasing publicity is being given by press, radio and television to environmental pollution and the public are becoming more aware of the dangers and damage that this form of pollution can bring and are demanding, quite properly, a high standard. Consideration must be given in the near future to the introduction of a phased programme of smoke control; the first step possibly being the conversion of the older Council housing to a smokeless form of heating. Difficulty has been experienced in the area in the supply of adequate supplies of solid smokeless fuel.

Pollution by dust and sulphur dioxide, however, is mainly from industrial sources and, although grit and dust may not be a direct hazard to health, there is no doubt of its deleterious effect on the environment. Close observations were kept on all the industrial furnaces in the area during the year and dust and grit samples and measurements taken where necessary. Advice was given to one industrial user and modifications carried out to the boiler to prevent the emission of black smoke.

HOUSING

The Housing Act 1969 came into operation on the 25th August, 1969, and gave local authorities extended powers, with particular reference to Improvement Grants. The Standard Grant was increased to a maximum of £200 and the Improvement Grant to a maximum of £1,000 per dwelling. As an indication of the impact of the Act, in the year ended August 1969, fifteen grants were approved for a total of £3,730. In the year August 1969 to August 1970, thirty-five grants were approved for a total of £6,283. From September 1970 to December 1970, thirteen grants were approved for a total of £3,708. Enquiries during 1970 increased as publicity for the Act began to take effect, and I estimate, that at the end of 1971, the Urban District Council will have been asked to consider in excess of fifty grants in that year.

Section 70 of the Act embodies a general duty under which local authorities must cause an inspection to be made of their districts with a view to dealing with a wide range of unsatisfactory conditions in the older houses in the district, and to improving and repairing houses that can be repaired and eliminate the unfit properties.

At the beginning of 1970, a detailed survey was started of the older areas in the town and the Council made a Clearance Area (Compulsory Purchase) Order in relation to seven houses in Little Marlow Road.

A detailed survey was also completed of an area comprising the south

side of Station Road (Nos. 31 - 73 odd) and the north side of South Place (Nos. 1 - 47); this is an 'island' site bounded by Station Road, South Place, Mill Road to the west and Little Boltons to the east.

The area consisted of a public house, four shops and forty-one dwellings. Fourteen houses were of a good standard of repair and provided with the basic amenities; six houses, although provided with basic amenities, required substantial repair and the remaining twenty-one houses lacked the basic amenities of bathroom, hot and cold water, internal W.C., etc., and of these twenty-one, fourteen were unfit for human habitation having regard to the standard laid down in the Housing Act 1957.

As a result of this inspection, the Council made a Clearance Area (Compulsory Purchase) Order on Nos. 33 - 47 odd, South Place, and declared the remaining area a General Improvement Area; this area including the remaining unfit houses. At the end of the year negotiations were in progress for the improvement, with the aid of grants, of a number of houses contained in the Improvement Area.

In spite of adverse publicity received in the local press, regarding the Compulsory Purchase Order for eight houses, it is obvious that the condition of the older type property is worse than could reasonably be expected, when out of forty-one dwellings only fourteen (33%) were of reasonable standard and provided with the basic amenities.

The 1969 Housing Act has provided additional financial encouragement to local authorities, owners and tenants to deal with sub-standard housing by improving a large percentage of those worthy of tenement by increased grants and an increased return to owners. But in all high density areas, provision must be made to improve the environment of the area as a whole by providing such facilities as open spaces, car parking, children's play areas, etc. In many cases, this can only be achieved by the removal of a number of unfit houses.

It is not readily understood in a small area, that almost every old street may have in it properties of all categories and the public are not easily reconciled to the terms that must legally be used, such as "unfit for human habitation", "slum clearance", and it is understandable that no tenant or owner-occupier likes to be told officially that he is living in a "slum", but he might accept that his house is not up to a standard that society should reasonably expect for decent living in 1971. It must now be the aim of all concerned to ensure that every house has a bath, hot and cold water and an internal W.C.

It is impossible at this stage for me to forecast the result of the survey of all the old property in the town, but I envisage that some 700 to 800 houses will be reported on in the next four years, and I estimate that at least $33\frac{1}{2}\%$ will be lacking some or all of the basic amenities. The houses will be inspected and reported on in small areas to ensure that both tenants and owners can be aware of the Council's proposals as soon as possible.

after the survey is made, and I hope that the majority of these properties will be able to be improved, with the co-operation of owners and tenants to a high standard to extend their life for up to 30 years.

In addition to the unfit houses already mentioned, a further six were found in other parts of the district; and undertakings were accepted from four owners that the houses would not be used for human habitation and Notices under the provision of Section 9 of Housing Act 1957 were served on the owners of the other two for the houses to be repaired to a satisfactory condition. Twelve houses were made fit by the owners after inspection and subsequent informal action and negotiation.

Early in 1970, the Council completed the purchase of two sub-standard houses in Crown Road. These houses have now been completely repaired and improved with the addition of a bathroom, internal W.C., hot and cold water supply, electrical re-wiring and provision of damp-proof course. The work was carried out by Messrs. A.H. Rockell & Sons under my supervision and the total cost of works for the two houses amounted to £2,700. These two houses are now a satisfactory addition to the Council's stock of housing.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

Bacteriological samples were taken at regular intervals from the three school swimming pools during the season. All pools maintained a high standard throughout the year. The samples were taken on behalf of the Buckinghamshire County Council Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

All complaints received during the year have been investigated and, when coming within the scope of the Public Health Acts, or other legislation administered by the Department, have been appropriately dealt with by the Council's Public Health Inspectors, whose journals and records have been completed accordingly.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

2. Housing

	<u>No. of Houses Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Public Health Act 1936	63	214
Housing Act 1957	127	684
Council House Inspections		36
Rent Act 1957		6

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

a) REGISTRATION & GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during Year	Number of Registered Premises at end of Year	Number of Registered Premises receiving a General Inspection during Year
Offices	6	46	46
Retail Shops	3	104	104
Wholesale Shops, and Warehouses	-	2	2
Catering Establishments open to Public, Canteens	1	23	23
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTALS	10	176	176
Total Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises under the Act			315

IN THIS SCHEDULE -

"general inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises; and "registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a Notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority or by the Greater London Council and the expression "premises registered" shall be construed accordingly.

b)

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions Found		Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	6	13	Sitting Facilities	Nil
5	Overcrowding	2	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	1
6	Temperature	5	15	Eating Facilities	2
7	Ventilation	Nil	16	Floors, Passages and Stairs	3
8	Lighting	3	17	Fencing, Exposed Parts Machinery	4
9	Sanitary Conveniences	1	18	Protection of Young Persons from dangerous Machinery	3
10	Washing Facilities	17	19	Training of Young Persons Working at dangerous Machinery	1
11	Supply of Drinking Water	4	23	Prohibition of Heavy Work	1
12	Clothing Accommodation	10	24	First Aid	17
				Other Matters	Nil
				TOTAL	98

c) ANALYST BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END
OF YEAR

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	NO. OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
OFFICES	236
RETAIL SHOPS	420
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	6
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC	76
CA (TEEN)	10
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	8
TOTAL	756
TOTAL MALES	284
TOTAL FEMALES	472

HOUSING ACT 1957

The table below gives details of further action under the Housing Act during 1970. The figures in Section 6 and 7 relate to individual unfit houses.

ARTICLE 31. HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	30
2.	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officer	12
3.	The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:- (a) the serving of Notices requiring the execution of works (b) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders	3 Nil
4.	The number of Notices served requiring the execution of works	3
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices	1
6.	The number of Demolition or Closing Orders made	Nil
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	10
8.	The number of houses demolished	Nil

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

(1) INFORMAL NOTICES	SERVED	COMPLIED	NOT COMPLIED	IN PROGRESS
Public Health Act 1936	17	16	-	1
Food & Drugs Act 1955 Food Hygiene Regulations 1960	42	37	3	2
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	36	17	15	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	3	3	Nil	Nil
Factories Act 1956	2	2	Nil	Nil
Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations	5	5	Nil	Nil

(2) FORMAL NOTICES

Public Health Act 1936				
Sec. 93	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
39	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
45	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Housing Act 1957	3	1	2	1
Rent Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Type of Premises	No. in District	No. Premises Comply Reg. 18	No. Premises Reg. 19 applies	No. Premises Comply Reg. 19	No. of Visits
Slaughterhouse	1	1	1	1	777
Butcher Shops	12	12	12	12	72
Catering Estab.	20	19	20	20	100
Ice Cream Premises	20	-	-	-	30
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2	17
Milk Distributor	Nil	-	-	-	Nil
Licensed	20	20	20	20	137
Grocers & General Stores	26	26	26	26	128
Fishmongers & Poulterers	3	3	3	3	10
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	10	10	10	10	30
Bakers	4	4	4	4	35
Food Vendors, incl. Confections, Off-Licences, etc.	32	32	13	13	61

NOTES

SECTION 16 Requires provision of:-

- (a) wash hand basin for use by persons engaged in handling of food;
- (b) hot and cold water or water at a suitably controlled temperature;
- (c) soap or suitable detergent, nail brushes, clean towels or other suitable drying facilities.

SECTION 19 Requires provision for:-

- (a) facilities for washing food and equipment.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICEPREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1970PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in District	4470	8
2. a) Total Number of Properties (including nearby Premises) Inspected following Notification	151	5
b) Number Infested by		
(i) Rats	96	4
(ii) Mice	55	1
3. a) Total Number of Properties Inspected for Rats and/or Mice for Reasons other than Notification	Nil	Nil
b) Number Infested by		
(i) Rats	Nil	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil

IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING PREMISES WERE VISITED IN RESPECT OF:

a)	RASPS NESTS	-	74
b)	BEES NESTS	-	3
c)	ANTS NESTS	-	2
d)	SNAKES	-	1
e)	SQUIRRELS	-	6
f)	MOLES	-	6

NOISE

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED - 36
2. TOTAL NUMBER INVESTIGATED - 36

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960Section 1

3. Number of Nuisances Confirmed
4. Number of Nuisances Remedied Informally
5. Number of Abatement Notices Under Section 1
6. Number of Nuisance Orders Under Section 1

	INDUSTRIAL	COMMERCIAL	DOMESTIC	TOTAL
3.	6	2	3	11
4.	6	2	3	10
5.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960Section 2

7. Number of Complaints
8. Number Remedied Informally
9. Number of Prosecutions Under Section 2
10. Number of Convictions Under Section 2

7
7
Nil
Nil

FACTORIES ACT 1937

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

(Including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES	No. On Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	65	40	7	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers premises)	13	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	89	44	7	Nil

PART 2 OF THE ACT

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	6	6	-	2	-
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	2	-

RAINFALLTOTAL RAINFALL COMPARISONS BETWEEN 1969 AND 1970

	<u>1969</u>		<u>1970</u>	
	<u>Ins.</u>	<u>Total Ins.</u>	<u>Ins.</u>	<u>Total Ins.</u>
JANUARY	2.645	2.645	3.295	3.295
FEBRUARY	1.32	3.965	1.64	4.935
MARCH	2.33	6.295	1.845	6.78
APRIL	1.03	7.235	2.33	9.11
MAY	2.605	9.93	1.005	10.115
JUNE	0.795	10.725	0.865	10.98
JULY	1.33	12.055	2.345	13.325
AUGUST	3.41	15.465	2.18	15.505
SEPTEMBER	0.205	15.67	1.815	17.32
OCTOBER	1.85	15.855	0.505	17.825
NOVEMBER	2.82	18.675	5.59	23.415
DECEMBER	1.99	20.665	1.43	24.845

